

# The Voice

Algona High School

Edited by: Megan Crosser and Janet Hofmann

January 27, 2011

## Chance of a lifetime

Taylor Setzer

An Algona High School teacher will be joined by one of AHS's students to take part in a summer institute in June 2012. The institute, which takes place every summer, is called The Normandy: Sacrifice for Freedom Summer Institute.

The process to get to this opportunity took a lot of work. Mr. Connick had to fill out an in-depth application, including letters and essays, on why he should be chosen for this opportunity.

Before sending in the application, Connick had to figure out who would be joining him in this trip. Students were informed about the trip and given the choice

to write an essay saying why they should be chosen to go.

The students were judged on their grade point, responsibility, and many other things like dedication to learn the topic.

After all the applications were in, the winner was chosen to be Jacob Eden. Eden states, "I am very excited for this opportunity. It should be very fun and interesting." The two will leave for Washington, D.C. on June 16th. After the classes there, the two will take off for France on June 23rd and return home on June 28th.

While in Washington, Connick, Eden, and 14 other student/teacher

groups will tour memorials and attend classes taught by many different professors.

When asked about going on the trip, Connick was more than excited to go!

"This is the trip of a lifetime. The ability to walk on the beaches that we had people from our community fight on is an extraordinary opportunity!"



## Senior spotlight

Kuleen Parsons

This week's senior spotlight is Michael VanDenHemel. Michael was born on November 1, 1993. He is the son of Heather VanDenHemel. He has two sisters, Morgan and Megan. Michael lives in town with his mother and two cats, CC and Dutchy.

Michael's favorite sport is football. *Oliver and Company* is his favorite movie. Michael works at Hy-Vee. His favorite class is Sociology with his favorite teacher,

Mrs. Singer.

What Michael enjoys most about school is the history classes. His favorite thing about being a senior at Algona is that he knows it's all coming to an end.

If Michael could be a superhero, he would be Batman! Michael was recently voted "Most Likely to Become a Professional Wrestler" by the senior class. When you see Michael in the hall, make sure to shoot him a high five!



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## Mrs. Wichtendahl

Jessica Mueller

This week's teacher spotlight is Mrs. Wichtendahl. She grew up in Panora, Iowa. In her free time she likes to crochet, read, and watch TV. Mrs. Wichtendahl has five kids, four graduated from Algona High School and one is a sophomore. She is married to Vern Wichtendahl. In April they will be married for 28 years. Madi Jennings says, "She's a fun teacher."

Wichtendahl graduated with a BA degree from Westmar, then graduated from graduate school at Drake University. She has been a teacher for 32 years. Mrs. Wichtendahl worked at Sentral before coming to AHS. Her favorite thing about being a teacher is sharing the things she likes with others.

She coaches middle school and high school quiz bowl. Her favorite thing about coaching quiz bowl is students who like learning and have fun competing against others for what they know. She also thinks the trips are fun.

Next time you see her in the hall, say hi!



## Keep on rolling

Jackie Brunow

The Algona High School girls' basketball team played against Spencer in Algona on Monday, January 9. They lost 40-45 in a tough battle. Total rebounds was 28: offensive rebounds were 15 and defensive rebounds were 13. Katlyn Loesch scored 12 points followed by Tangy Wiseman with 11 points.

The girls went on and played Iowa-Falls here at Algona High School on Friday, January 13. They won 61-43. Tangy Wiseman made 11 points, followed by Jade Simpson with 10.

The girls traveled to

Clear Lake High School on January 17. They got defeated 47-49 with Tangy Wiseman making 16 points.

Next was Eagle Grove on Tuesday, January 24th. The girls won 44-31. Rachel Teague led the Bulldogs with 9 points, followed closely behind by Abby Strohm and Jade Simpson with 7 each.

The girls host St. Edmonds tonight. Then they host Clarion-Goldfield on Monday, January 30th.

## District Speech

Brandee Hockett

The District Large Group Speech competition was held at Algona High School on Saturday, January 21st, starting at 10:00 a.m. (2 hours late due to the weather). There were 15 different schools that attended. The different categories available to compete in were: Readers Theatre, Choral Reading, One Act Play, Ensemble Acting, Group Mime, Solo Mime, Group Improvisation, Musical Theatre, TV News, Radio News, and Short Film.

Sixteen out of twenty-three groups from AHS are advancing to the State Large Group Speech contest on February 4th. In order to move on to State, groups must receive a Division I at the District level. State will be held at Spencer High School. Performance times

will be announced at a later date.

While groups were judged by one judge at Districts (except for One Act), they will be judged by three at the State level. Groups receive written comments and ratings at both levels. At Districts, they also received verbal comments.

Madison Jennings said, "Speech is awesome! It's fun to hang out with my friends and just be ourselves!"

### Moving on to State Varsity

One Act Play - Fatality  
Readers Theatre - FREAK  
Choral Reading - All the Bases  
Ensemble Acting - The Miracle Worker  
Group Mime - Morning Memories

2 Group Improvisations

3 Musical Theatres

Big Spender

Sister Act

Les Miserables

### Freshmen

One Act Play - The Treehouse  
Choral Reading - A Bottle of Cola  
2 Ensemble Acting -  
The Boy Book  
By The Sea  
1 Group Improvisation  
Musical Theatre - I Know It's Today

Left: Paige Yi goes up for a shot against the Iowa-Falls Cadets.



Photo by Jim Gale



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## AHS - NSK grappling

Micah Lavrenz

The AHS - NSK wrestlers traveled to the Bob Sharp Invite in Ankeny on January 14th. There were all 3A schools there except for the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs fought hard and came out with a 4th place finish. Placers for the AHS - NSK wrestling team were Darton Potts 5th, Jake Adams 2nd, Austin Long 5th, Brad Bjstrom 6th, Weston Shaw 5th, Tyler Frideres 5th, Joe Teague 2nd, Garrett Johnson 2nd, Jeff Buchanan 4th, Nick Buchanan 2nd, and Michael Mathers 2nd.

On Tuesday, January 17th, the Dogs had a double dual against Osage and West Hancock. The Dogs ended up splitting the dual 1 - 1, falling to the Green Devils

by a score of 50 - 15. Winning matches for the Dogs in the Osage dual were at 285 pounds Michael Mathers, 220 Nick Buchanan, 182 Garrett Johnson, and Weston Shaw at 152.

The Bulldogs came back strong the same night to beat the Eagles 52 - 22. Winning matches for the West Hancock dual were Darton Potts, Matt Hutchinson, Joel Lanus, Jake Adams, Austin Long, Kory Kuecker, Brad Bjstrom, Weston Shaw, and Tyler Frideres.

This past weekend, the wrestlers had the North Central Conference Tournament. There is a lot of tradition at the NCC Tournament. Going into the meet there was a 3 way pick to win the

tournament between Webster City, Clarion - Goldfield, and our own Algona Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs ended up coming in 4th at the end of the day behind Humboldt, Clarion - Goldfield, and Webster City. Webster City ended up winning the Conference Tournament. Place winners on Saturday for the Dogs were Joel Lanus 6th, Jake Adams 3rd, Austin Long 5th, Kory Kuecker 2nd, Brad Bjstrom 6th, Weston Shaw 3rd, Tyler Frideres 3rd, Joe Teague 2nd, Garrett Johnson 3rd, Jeff Buchanan 4th, Nick Buchanan 3rd, and Michael Mathers 6th.

"Wrestling is a sport where you have to be mentally, physically, and technically tough," states Jeff Buchanan.

The Bulldogs were in action at Pocahontas on Tuesday, January 24th. They wrestled Pocahontas

and Emmetsburg. AHS beat Pocahontas but lost to Emmetsburg. Winners against Pocahontas were Matt Hutchinson, Darton Potts, Jake Adams, Austin Long, Kory Kuecker, Brad Bjstrom, Weston Shaw, Tyler Frideres, Joe Teague, Garrett Johnson, Jeff Buchanan, and Nick Buchanan. Winners against Emmetsburg were Jake Adams, Kory Kuecker, Weston Shaw, Joe Teague, Garrett Johnson, and Nick Buchanan.

On Thursday, January 26th, at Clear Lake, AHS beat Clear Lake and North Polk. AHS three way tied for Conference champions with Clarion - Goldfield and Webster City.

Next up for the wrestlers is Sectionals at Algona on February 4th. In order to advance on and not let their season end, wrestlers must place 1st or 2nd at Sectionals.

## Nearing the end

Dylan Cink

The Algona boys' basketball team has been very busy lately. On Friday, January 13th, they took on the Iowa-Falls Cadets at home. The Bulldogs fought hard but came up short with a final score of 55-77. Samuel Lipps had 14 points while Cole Nielsen pulled down 4 rebounds.

The next game was away against Clear Lake on Tuesday, January 17th. Another hard fought battle for the Bulldogs, but they still came up short with a 50-58 loss. Some key stats in that game were Sawyer Frideres' 16 points and Sam Curtis ripped down 8 rebounds.

The Bulldogs would finally get the win they wanted the next game, on Saturday, January 21st, at home

against Forest City. The final score of that one was 61-58. Sawyer Frideres chipped in 24 points while Justin Raymond had 8 points. Sam Curtis was asked about how this game played out, and said, "It was a good win."

The next game was supposed to be against Clarion-Goldfield at home on Friday, January 20th, but due to the weather, the game has been postponed to Monday, January 30th.

The most current game the Bulldogs played was against Eagle Grove on the road on Tuesday, January 24th.

The next game for the guys is on Friday, January 27th, at home against St. Edmond High School. Tip off is at 7:45 p.m.



Above: Junior Cole Nielsen looks for a pass against the Iowa-Falls Cadets.

Photo by Jim Gale

## Journalism II

Rachel Feuring

In the new semester, this year's journalism class is working on *The Voice*, the senior book, and the yearbook.

In order to take Journalism II, Journalism I is required. In that class, students learned to use Photoshop, In-Design, and use their editing skills. Everyone gets a turn to be editor for the school newspaper and all the students get a topic to write about. Students take that knowledge and apply it to Journalism II.

Throughout Journalism II, students continue to write *Voice* articles, printed every other Friday.

This year's yearbook, themed "Livin' the Good Life," costs \$50. Some students ordered their yearbooks at registration. If you'd like to make sure there is a yearbook ordered for

you, check with Mrs. Spear. Orders for this year's yearbook must be in by April 1st. 2011-2012 yearbooks will be available for distribution some time in August 2012. The yearbooks don't come back until that late in order to include graduation pictures. Seniors who graduate and won't be at AHS in August should listen to KLGA to know when to pick theirs up.

Starting next week, seniors should be getting their senior book questionnaires. The template chosen by Journalism II students include a now picture, baby picture, and 20 random questions about each senior. Seniors need to turn in one candid baby picture to Mrs. Spear some time soon. A Journalism II student will also be around to take a candid current picture. The

printing company of the senior book does not allow any professional pictures (current or baby) without the photographer's written consent; so all pictures will

be candid. Senior books should be available before graduation in May and will cost around \$20.

## Iowa weather

Zach McKenna

This past week, we officially had our first snow storm. Due to the snow storm, we had our first snow days. The snow days were on Friday, January 21, and Monday, January 23. AJ Wagner had a wonderful snow day! He said, "I worked on my snowmobile and had a little bit of bonding time with my girlfriend." Between all of that, he got stuck in his pickup truck. We got about 5 inches of snow from the storm on Friday but due to the rain and the winds, it was quite nasty outside.

The weather here in Iowa is quite unpredictable.

You never know what it is going to do. Just a week ago it was 45 degrees and now it is snowing again. There isn't anything like the Iowa winters.

In Iowa we have already gotten about eight inches of snow. Compared to the last years, this isn't too much at all. Iowa averages 35.8 inches of snow each winter. It seems like we won't come close to average this year. However, the *Farmers Almanac* says in February we are going to have twelve plus inches of snow in less than a week.

## Getting off to a good start

Katie Riley

For students at AHS, second semester started on January 17, 2012. Second semester at AHS started with an assembly in the gym with Mr. Cecil talking and explaining how it is a fresh, new start and to possibly get better grades or achieve something in school.

Mr. Cecil also encouraged everyone to try their hardest and to do their very best during second semester. He finished by wishing everyone the best of luck second semester. Students

had until January 19, 2012, to change and adjust any classes.

Second semester is a time that you can fix or change things in classes to make yourself do better and improve in that class, if it is a year long class. More than likely, you have been with the teacher before, so you know what they expect and how much effort that you have to put in to specific classes.

Also by now, everyone knows what their

easiest and hardest classes are for them and they know what classes to spend more of their time working on. On March 16, 2012, the third quarter is done. Fourth quarter, also known as the end of the second semester, ends on May 31, 2012, so far with the two snow days.

Jacob Kofoot said, "First semester was great for me and I hope that this semester is as great as well!" Some things to look forward to second semester are Superstars, which is on March

15, and Prom, which is on April 14. Hope everyone works hard and finishes off the 2011-2012 school year with high grades and progress, good luck!

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## Bones

Jeremy Black

Need a great show to watch? Try *Bones*! It's about a forensic anthropologist, Dr. Temperance Brennan, who works at the Jeffersonian Institute. She was asked to consult on an FBI case. After the one case, she was asked by special agent Seeley Booth to help on future cases.

Brennan, aka Bones, looks at bones and figures out how they died. She works with others in the lab who help by looking at the facts pertaining to their exper-

tise area. Angela Montenegro works with images and diagrams. Dr. Jack Hodgins works with bugs and plants. Camille Saroyan heads the team in the lab. Dr. Lance Sweets is the psychologist.

The team works together and solves cases that you may think are impossible to solve. If you have Netflix, you should go home right after reading this and watch the TV series. "I like how they study bones to solve crimes!" said Sawyer Brandt.

## The Devil Inside

Tashia Lemus

*The Devil Inside* starts off taking place in 1989 with Maria Rossi (Suzan Crowley) calling emergency responders willingly confessing that she had just brutally killed three people during an exorcism, an exorcism that was being performed on her. Twenty years later, Maria's daughter, Isabella (Fernanda Andrade), attempts to find out what really happened to her mother that night in 1989. With high hopes, she ends up visiting her mother for the first time in years in Italy at the Centrino Hospital for the Criminally Insane. Her mother was sent to Italy after what happened that night. The Centrino Hospital for the Criminally Insane will find out if Isabella's mother is mentally ill or demonically possessed.

Called by some as the worst movie of this very new year, it has a good chance to retain the title for all of 2012. Rolling Stones says, "[It is] Ripping off *The Exorcist* while adding the 'found footage' scam from the *Paranormal Activity* franchise, *The Devil Inside* manages not only to scrape the barrel's bottom but to drill a hole in said bottom and funnel deeper into the dirt."

This hour and twenty-three minute movie is a horror film made by Paramount Pictures. Filmmakers spent about 51.3 million dollars making this movie. The movie was directed by Simon Quarterman and Evan Helmuth. The movie opened in theaters on January 6, 2012.

## Playoff picture

Mike Vandy

It's another rough round of playoff action in the NFL this week, this time with a new batch of divisional games. On Saturday, January 14th, competition was exciting as the 49ers faced the Saints and the Broncos took on the Patriots.

The week prior, the Saints beat a tough Lions team and the Broncos faced a favorable Steelers team. This week was a different story for both teams.

The Saints took on the 49ers at San Francisco. In what was considered a great contest, the Saints came back from many turnovers to lead the game in the long stretch. However, the 2nd seed 49ers had other intentions with Frank Gore, Alex Smith, and Vernon Davis at the helm.

The 49ers had a huge drive down the field. With minimal time left, quarterback Alex Smith threw a laser to Mt. Vernon, aka Mr. Vernon Davis, and connected for the game winning touchdown.

The next game featured the number 1 seeded Patriots versus the underdog Broncos. The two stars of the game were Tom Brady and of course Tim Tebow. The Pats took an early 7-0 lead which lead to multiple scoring shots. The end result after Tebow's mistakes, offensive strikes by the Patriots, and a followed up 48 yard punt on 3rd down by Tom Brady was a Patriots win.

On Sunday, January 15th, night action saw the Ravens face the Texans and

the New York Giants vs. the number one seed 15-1 Packers. The Ravens disposed of the Texans after a 1-0 playoff start for the Texans. The final in that game was 20-13. Ray Lewis looks to take down a favored Patriots team. The last meeting between these two teams resulted in the Ravens upsetting the Patriots.

The big game on everyone's mind though, was the Giants vs. the Packers.

The game at Lambeau Field was a heavy contest. However, in a shocker, the Giants led for most of the game, holding the Packers off the whole night. One stat that will be the hardest to swallow for the Packers is the rushing yards. Aaron Rodgers led rushing yards

on the night with just 66 yards total. Hakeem Nicks and Victor Cruz led the Giants' receiving charge and all this led to a shocking 37-20 win by the Giants. Next week they travel to Candlestick Field to face the 49ers.

The last time the Giants got this far in the post-season they went all they way to the Super Bowl, which they won and could face the very same team this year if the Patriots win as well. Or we may see a rematch from the regular season and the first brother vs. brother Super Bowl game featuring Jim and John Harbaugh with the 49ers vs. the Ravens.

What was the end result? Look out for the next *Voice* to find out.



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## NASCAR

A.J. Wagner

Down in Daytona beach, Florida, the NASCAR officials are monitoring the second day of Pre-season Thunder at Daytona International Speedway. On Friday, January 20th, they began to present technical adjustments for the tests on the final day Saturday.

On Friday, the best speed was more than 196 mph, the fastest tandem-drafting lap was better than 206 mph, and the highest mass-draft speed was a little better than 204 mph.

That afternoon, 21 cars left pit road in a group that might have about two

dozen cars for the roughly 20 lap run. They were trying to get right at 200 mph for the race speed, that would be better. But it would be a lot of work to try to close the difference between a conventional draft and a two-car push.

There are a couple leaders in this preseason race, which would be Martin Truex, Jr., and Clint Bowyer. The first race will be on February 18th, which is the Budweiser Shootout.

Zach McKenna says, "NASCAR drivers have the best glasses and the best wives ever!"

## Back on track

Sam Curtis

The NBA is back in full swing after the lockout delayed the season by two weeks. Opening day this year was on Christmas day, with five exciting match ups being played. Senior Samuel Lipps said, "The games are very fast paced and fun to watch."

The start of this season has seen many teams have explosive starts, and others not so explosive. Teams that have started out hot include Chicago, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Atlanta, and the Los Angeles Clippers. All of those teams are currently leading their divisions.

Along with these great teams come many all-stars. Perennial all-stars who have returned to the NBA this year include Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, LeB-

ron James, Derrick Rose, and Dwight Howard. These players are great, but they aren't the only ones making some noise in the NBA.

Many rookie players have stepped up this year and have really helped out their team. Some examples are Ricky Rubio, a former pro in Spain; Chandler Parsons, a second round draft pick for the Houston Rockets; and Norris Cole, a first round draft choice of Chicago. Cole was eventually traded to the Miami Heat, where he is having a great season.

All these players are hoping for bids in the All-Star game coming in February. Along with the game will be the slam dunk and three point competitions. It is sure to be a fun weekend for all who attend.

## Ice breaker

Sawyer Brandt

The Boston Bruins won the Stanley Cup for the 2011/2012 season. It was a hard fought season and they were not leading the NHL until the post season playoffs. President Obama invited the team to the White House to honor them and their victory.

The whole team showed up except for the Bruins' goalie. Bruins' goalie, Tim Thomas, quoted, "I believe the Federal government has grown out of control, threatening the rights, liberties, and property of the people. This is being done at the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial level. This is in direct opposition to the Constitution and the Founding Fathers' vision for the Federal government."

"Because I believe this, today I exercised my right as a free citizen and did

not visit the White House. This was not about politics or party, as in my opinion both parties are responsible for the situation we are in as a country. This was about a choice I had to make as an INDIVIDUAL."

Tim Thomas is not the only athlete to turn down an offer as such from the President. Former Chicago Bears lineman Dan Hampton decided to opt out after President Obama invited the 1985 Super Bowl champions to a reunion at the White House.

Also in September, Obama invited 12 NASCAR drivers to the White House and only two showed up. They claimed they already had a full schedule but their tardiness didn't go unnoticed.



Above: Bruins' goalie Tim Thomas.